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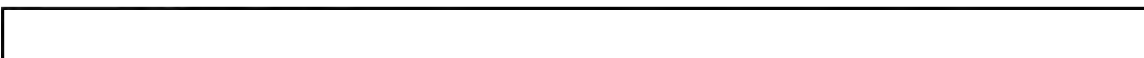


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

State Dept. review completed

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22 January 1966

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

[REDACTED]

25X1

2. Nigeria:

[REDACTED]

25X1

3. Rhodesia: New economic sanctions probably will not have much effect. (Page 4)

4. Italy: Prolonged crisis to follow Moro's resignation. (Page 5)

5. Notes: India; Ecuador. (Page 6)

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/04/11 : CIA-RDP79T00975A008700300001-2

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2003/04/11 : CIA-RDP79T00975A008700300001-2

25X1

Nigeria:

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25X1

General Ironsi yesterday named an all-military government, contrary to indications that he was trying to include civilian officials in his regime. He has formed a Supreme Military Council and a Federal Executive Council, but has given no indication of how long they will serve.

The US Embassy in Lagos reports that the federal government appears to be operating normally. The embassy does not discount the possibility of tribal-based dissension or a collapse of discipline in the army, but suggests that northerners' reaction to the assassination of their premier may not be as violent as expected.

25X1

22 Jan 66

3

25X1

Rhodesia: [The new economic sanctions imposed by the UK are not expected to have much additional effect on the Rhodesian economy.]

[The sanctions package repudiates any debts or other financial obligations contracted by the rebel government and institutes a total ban on trade between Britain and Rhodesia. The new sanctions, however, do not greatly increase the pressures. International bankers have already been reluctant to extend credit to the Smith regime, and the British had earlier banned 95 percent of their imports from Rhodesia. The Smith government should not experience much difficulty in finding alternative sources for vital imports unless faced with an international embargo.]

[The new sanctions will help quell any desire by Zambia to initiate an economic break with Rhodesia before 15 February, the date agreed upon by Kaunda and Wilson.]

[UK planners have recommended that Wilson consider three actions at that time: invalidation of all business contracts entered into with Rhodesians after a specific date; an appeal to all nations to cease exports to Rhodesia; and possibly a ban on air services to and from Rhodesia.]

25X1

22 Jan 66

4

Italy: A period of prolonged crisis may follow Premier Moro's resignation.

Proponents of center-left cooperation are likely to begin negotiations as soon as possible with a view to reconstituting the coalition. President Saragat has the option to dissolve Parliament and call new elections, but this would be a last resort.

Moro's action was precipitated by "snipers" within his own Christian Democratic Party. Their votes helped defeat a government bill on the establishment of state-run nursery schools.

The defeat was unexpected since the bill had previously been approved in all its individual articles by large majorities. Moro's coalition partners apparently asked for his resignation because the negative votes from his party on the over-all bill represented a breach of agreement on one of the government's major reform planks.

Saragat has asked Moro to stay on as caretaker until a new government is formed. Moro himself appears likely to be asked to form it. It is doubtful, however, that any progress will be made toward resolution of the crisis until the Christian Democrats meet in their National Council scheduled for 29 January.

25X1

22 Jan 66

5

NOTES

India: Mrs. Gandhi, in her first postelection meeting with Ambassador Bowles, denied US press reports that she leaned toward the USSR and described leftist Khrishna Menon as an adversary who would have no place in her administration. She spoke in a friendly manner of right-of-center Morarji Desai, her defeated rival, which may indicate she is contemplating moves to heal the split in the Congress Party caused by the recent contest for power. Mrs. Gandhi expressed high regard for several younger men, including Agricultural Minister Subramaniam and Defense Minister Chavan, adding that her government would be more "action-minded" than its predecessor on economic programs, including family planning.

25X1

Ecuador: The military junta has revised its plan for a return to constitutional government by agreeing to hold congressional elections on 5 June, the date when the presidential election is to be held. Advice of several ex-presidents and pressure from the military high command reportedly were responsible for this major concession to the politicians. Demands for a constituent assembly and an interim civilian chief executive to preside over the elections will probably be pressed less vigorously now that many politicians expect to get legislative seats which offer opportunities for personal gain.

25X1

22 Jan 66

6

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